**Ten-Line Script: An Activity for Poor Richard’s Almanack**

Olympian High School – 11th grade English

OBJECTIVE: Students of 11th grade English will **relate and apply** by composing a ten-line script that expresses a Rationalist aphorism in a contemporary setting.

**GLOSSARY**

**Aphorism:** a cleverly worded statement that expresses some wisdom about life.

**Main Idea** (nonfiction): the most important point that a writer wishes to express.

**Theme** (literary): an insight about life that is embedded in a text, usually without being stated directly.

1. Choose one of the aphorisms from Poor Richard’s Almanack. Record this aphorism below.

2. What is this aphorism’s main idea? (Restate the author’s claim, subtracting the wit and wordplay.)

3. Compose a ten-line script on a separate sheet of paper.

C:\Users\Stephen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\12NPUWMS\MCj04118620000[1].wmfUsing your answers to the above questions as a guide, work with your partner to compose a ten-line script. Because a script is a literary text, the **main idea** of the aphorism must now be expressed as a **theme.** This means that it should not be directly stated, but instead should be communicated through the characters, plot, and setting.

SCRIPT GUIDELINES

* List of Characters (minimum: 2 characters)
* **Description** of Setting (1 to 2 sentences)
* **Summary** of Plot (1 sentence)
* Dialogue (minimum: 10 lines)
* The script is to be written collaboratively, with each partner recording his or her own copy.

RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF GENRE

**aphorism:** wit, wordplay

**script:** characters, plot, setting